



Beth Maynor Young is an accomplished conservation photographer who has spent much of her life chronicling the natural beauty and remnant wild places of the contemporary South. The photographs are mostly from unprotected places - each with its own story of biological compromise and imminent threat. But these places also embrace a Southern tradition - of being saved and preserved, of restoration and resurrection.

A native of Decatur, Alabama, Beth Maynor Young holds a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Alabama.

Exhibit Theme: Southern Rivers

## **Rear Wall Exhibit in Periodicals Room, left to right**

### **Seven-Foot Falls, Chattooga River, South Carolina/Georgia, 1992**

Part of the northern border between Georgia and South Carolina, the Chattooga is a symbol for lovers of wild rivers everywhere. The river tumbles off the Blue Ridge Mountains, exhibiting a rugged character, full of steep cliffs, gorges and waterfalls like Seven-Foot Falls, on its lower section. Famous for world-class whitewater.

### **Abiding Within the Realm of a Beech Tree, Econfina Creek, Florida, 1996**

Econfina Creek is an enchanting stream in northwest Florida. It starts in the scrub-oak ridges of northern Bay County, and passes by high limestone walls, sand bluffs, and clay ravines. Then in a surprise, it sinks into a cool hardwood basin, where an afternoon can be lost in the embrace of an old beech tree. Econfina empties into Deerpoint Lake, a primary drinking water source for Panama City.

### **Little River Falls II, Little River Canyon National Preserve, Alabama, 1993**

Known to locals simply as "the Falls," Little River plunges 45 feet to begin Little River Canyon, one of the deepest gorges east of the Rockies. The canyon is 12 miles long and gives awesome testimony to the power of water. Along rocky banks and in surrounding hardwood and pine forests, you find an abundance of plant life, ranging from carnivorous pitcher plants to dense stands of mountain laurel. After a winter storm,

the river water takes on a dreamy turquoise color that inspires everyone from photographers to kayakers to country songwriters.

### **Blackwater Gold, Wolf River, Mississippi, 1993**

Beginning in Lamar County in southeastern Mississippi, the Wolf River is a hidden treasure for residents of the Gulf Coast. It meanders through several rural counties before flowing into the Bay of St. Louis. Huge white sandbars intensify the solitude felt in this magical place.

### **Riley Moore Falls, Chauga River, South Carolina, 1992**

Surfacing in northeastern South Carolina, the Chauga River rolls southwest through the Piedmont until it flows into the Tugaloo River below Tugaloo Dam. At Riley Moore Falls, where an old grist mill once tapped the river's energy, the Chauga takes about a 15-foot vertical drop amid prehistoric boulders.

## **Front Wall Exhibit, left to right**

### **Jones Cove, Tennessee River, Alabama, 1998**

Among the South's largest rivers, the Tennessee is also one of the most biodiverse in the nation, with 205 endemic species. Born in the Appalachians, this sinewy giant flows through Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky before emptying into the Ohio.

### **Hunting Shack on the Raft River, Tensaw Delta, Alabama, 1998**

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Located at the head of Mobile Bay, the Tensaw Delta acts as a freshwater lifeline to one of the nation's most important estuaries. Scientists believe as much as 98 percent of the fish and shellfish harvested in the Gulf of Mexico may be estuary dependent.

### **Long Creek Falls, South Carolina, 1992**

Hikers and swimmers frequently stop at Long Creek Falls on a tributary of the Chattooga River to soak up its untamed beauty and cooling spray. Steep and rocky, the falls reveal the unusual geology of the Blue Ridge Mountains, formed by a collision of continents 200 million years ago. High rainfall of 100 inches annually.

### **Cypress Creek in Hurricane Bayou, Tensaw Delta, Alabama, 1997**

Together with the Mobile River Delta, the Tensaw Delta is considered the nation's second largest river delta. At its head, the Tombigbee and Alabama meet, bringing together the waters from five other river systems. This vibrant landscape is a refuge for alligators, black bears, rare red-bellied turtles, migratory birds and many other species. Recently, 47,000 acres of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta were set aside for protection as part of Alabama's Forever Wild program.

### **Brickyard Landing, Alabama River, Alabama, 1998**

Formed by the union of the Tallapoosa and the Coosa rivers, the Alabama is a mighty river indeed. Flowing westerly through the Black Belt, it gathers the waters of the Cahaba before heading south to meet the Tombigbee and

empty into the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. A cradle of civilization for native Americans, the Alabama was once admired for its rich plant life, picturesque bends, deep channels and high bluffs. Today, south of Claiborne Lock and Dam, the Alabama still enjoys some of its last "big river" habitat, relished by many fishermen. In this river swim 142 species, including the federally-listed Alabama sturgeon (which occurs nowhere else in the world).

### **Life Saturated with Time and Water, Pascagoula River, Mississippi, 1993**

The Pascagoula River in southeastern Mississippi. Ghostly cypress trees guard the swamp, echoing with woodpecker calls. Forming 50 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico, The Pascagoula drains the Leaf, Chickasawhay, Bowie, Escatapa, Black, and Red rivers into the Mississippi Sound. One of the largest river systems to remain untamed, it is home to the rare gulf sturgeon and the gopher tortoise.

### **River of Lilies, Cahaba River, Alabama, 1994**

Born in the southern foothills of the Appalachians, the Cahaba is one of the region's longest free-flowing rivers. On its way south, it delivers fresh water to more than a million residents of Birmingham and central Alabama. The river is also a global hotspot for biodiversity. The Cahaba supports more species of fish, 131, than any river its size in North America. It is home to the largest remaining stand of the endangered Cahaba or shoals lily. This section, Hargrove Shoals, has been proposed as a National Wildlife Refuge.

## *Beth Maynor Young*



## Environmental Photographer



Shelton State Community College

Library Gallery, Fall 2014